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Atty. Dkt. No. 016907-1227

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuhiro OGURA et al.

Title: PROCESSING SYSTEM

Appl. No.: 09/845,259

Filing Date: 05/01/2001

Examiner: Andrew J. Fischer

Art Unit: 3627

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application, a Japanese Office Action issued on June 8, 2004. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references.

According to the translation of the Japanese Office Action, document A2 describes a "basic configuration" via-a-vis particular claims in the Japanese application. Documents A2 and A3 each describe that there are provided: reading means for reading a written application from having required items written on an application form printed by printing means; and transmission means for transmitting to a center, image data for the written application form read by the reading means.

According to the translation of the Japanese Office Action, documents A4 and A5 disclose storage means for temporarily storing data and transmission control means for, when the data stored in the storage means reaches a predetermined amount, making control for transmission to a center.

According to the translation of the Japanese Office Action, documents A6 and A7 disclose that a copying machine is made multi-functional, which comprises reading means for reading an image as well as printing means.

According to the translation of the Japanese Office Action, document A8 described that an information transmission destination transmitted by information transmission means is a portable telephone.

According to the translation of the Japanese Office Action, document A9 describes that there is provided transfer means for transferring customer information to an advertisement source.

According to the translation of the Japanese Office Action, document A10 teaches to perform correlation analysis between databases and performing updating of the databases based on the analysis result.

As noted, the characterizations of the Japanese Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement with the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

Documents A1 and A10 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Documents A8 and A11 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, English language abstracts are provided herewith, and in this case there is additionally submitted herewith the foregoing English version of the Office Action and/or search report (or portions thereof) that provide the "degree of relevance found by the foreign office." Therefore, foreign language documents have been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

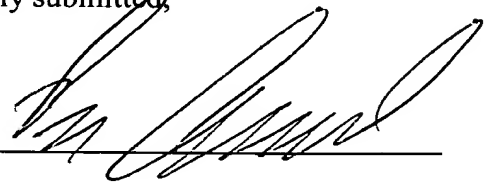
Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	09/845,259
Date Submitted: July 19, 2004		Filing Date	05/01/2001
(use as many sheets as necessary)		First Named Inventor	Kazuhiro OGURA
Sheet 1 of 1		Group Art Unit	3627
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		Examiner Name	Andrew J. Fischer
JUL 19 2004		Attorney Docket Number	016907-1227

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	6,561,417	B1	GADD	05-13-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A2	JP	2000-113334	A	NCR INTERNATIONAL INC.	04-21-2000		Transl.
	A3	JP	2001-148072	A	NEC CORP.	05-29-2001		Abst.
	A4	JP	10-336358	A	BROTHER IND. LTD.	12-18-1998		Abst.
	A5	JP	10-224623	A	BROTHER IND. LTD.	08-21-1998		Abst.
	A6	JP	8-256232	A	RICOH CO., LTD.	10-01-1996		Abst.
	A7	JP	9-93376	A	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD.	04-04-1997		Abst.
	A8	JP	2000-322654	A	SEIKO EPSON CORP.	11-24-2000		Abst.
	A9	JP	10-187320	A	NAOYUKI MIYAYAMA	07-14-1998		Abst.
	A10	JP	2000-177808	A	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINE CORP.	06-27-2000		Abst.
	A11	EP	1 035 527	A2	SEIKO EPSON CORP.	09-13-2000		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.